



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES in YORKSHIRE**



NEWSLETTER 68 SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION SUMMER 2013
SILVER CELEBRATIONS.

The Summer OMEGA is full of all the news from the AGM and Social Weekend, held in the West Midlands, that was a feast of celebrations for our 25th Anniversary year and Yorkshire, as usual, was there in force joining in all the celebrations. We were the second highest attendees after the West Midlands themselves! There was so much to tell you that the Summer OMEGA was a one off bumper edition with eight extra coloured pages.

The weekend began with a visit to Birmingham's Assay Office, set in the midst of the famous Birmingham Jewellery Quarter, and here the silver theme of the weekend commenced with the opportunity to see their historic silver collection containing one item of silver from each of the years that Birmingham Assay Office has been in operation. Birmingham assay mark is that of an anchor, a strange sign one might think for an inland place but this dates from the time of petitioning for assay offices outside London and a meeting with similarly minded Yorkshire folk we were campaigning for a Sheffield Assay Office. The meeting place was a pub 'The Crown and Anchor' and legend has it that the marks were decided on the toss of a coin – Sheffield took the crown and Birmingham the anchor. Sheffield has since changed to the Yorkshire rose but Birmingham has maintained the anchor.

I was responsible for organising the Friday evening entertainment and after the evening meal, distributed hessian bags to each table of attendees with ten disconnected objects inside. The 'victims', sorry 'members', had to think up a possible story linking eight of the objects in their bag and relate it to the rest of the attendees to score points for each object included, the smooth linking of the story and the entertainment value. Then just to make it even harder the four team members selected by each group, had their objects randomly selected for them by another team. Despite all odds our Northern folk held their nerve and I was very proud to be able to present little 'silver' trophies to the winning team which just happened to be made up of all Yorkshire and North West members!

And so the weekend got off to a flying start ... Saturday brought the AGM meetings with the highlight being the approving of nine new Honorary Life Memberships, two of these being from Yorkshire. - Ramsey Hertzog and Virginia Feeney (better known as Ginny our Walking Group organiser). Saturday excursions were to the Leather Museum and the Black Country Open Air Museum and then came the Gala Evening. This was a celebration beyond words – extra courses, extra decorations, extra gifts, extra speeches, an extra energetic band and extra large raffle prizes, all adding up to an extra special atmosphere, made even more special by the presence of Lucian Hudson, OU Director of Communications who not only brought a special message from the Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean, but cut our celebration cake and to use Ramsey's terminology "immersed himself" in the evening, chatting to members as if they were life-long friends. We felt a true sense of a positive support for AOUG and our ethos.

The finale of the weekend on Sunday was an excursion on the Dudley canal into the limestone tunnels, not quite silver maybe but the limestone deposits had a silvery sheen and the sunshine as we emerged into the daylight was certainly a cause for celebration. So all in

all, a weekend to remember! However AOUG did not want the celebrations to end so not only are all Regions and Nations having their own local celebrations, the Association is offering another chance for all Regions and Nations to get together at the Silver Celebration Weekend in October.

Jean Hertzog

Yorkshire's Anniversary visit to Skipton Castle and Canal.

This is Yorkshire first of two Anniversary events. Meet at 11am on Saturday 7th September at Skipton Castle in the Clifford Tearooms for coffee before exploring the Castle itself. Pay on the day for the entrance to the Castle, which is £6 per adult and £3.50 for children. Then we go down into the town to explore the market and shops of this vibrant town. Finally we round the day off by meeting at the canal wharf in Waterside Court, off Coach Street between 3pm and 3.15pm ready to board the canal boat for an hour relaxing on the canal whilst enjoying a cream tea. Places for the canal trip are limited at £9.95 each, so booking by the 24th August, and paying in advance, is essential with Jean Hertzog jrhertzog@hotmail.com, 43, Barnard Avenue, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3BP if you would like to be part of the Yorkshire Group Anniversary celebration. Members, friends and family are all welcome for any or all of the day.

Yorkshire's Anniversary Mini Cruise to Amsterdam

There is still time to book for the second of our Yorkshire Anniversary celebrations – an Amsterdam mini cruise. You can join other AOUG in Yorkshire members in Hull at 4pm on Monday 28th October, for light afternoon snack, prior to going to the ferry port, or meet at the ferry terminal at 5pm. Family and friends are all welcome as are members and families from other AOUG Regions. Share an evening meal on board before we sail overnight from Hull and then are taken by coach into Amsterdam for a day's sight-seeing. It is hoped to also meet up with some AOUG European members and then have a full day in Amsterdam to explore the museums, shops and restaurants either as part of the group, or on your own, and then we are taken by coach, back to the boat for another evening meal and overnight sail, to disembark in Hull on Wednesday 30th October, after breakfast. The excursion is organised by 'Superbreak' and Jean Hertzog has arranged the group bookings via a local travel agent. So far we have seven members travelling but if anyone else fancies it, contact Jean for full details. jrhertzog@hotmail.com

Association Silver Celebration - 4th and 5th October 2013

You will all see the write ups on our 25th Anniversary AGM and Social Weekend in the Summer OMEGA and, even if you were not able to attend, you will be able to tell what a wonderful celebration it was but the celebrations continue, as over the first weekend in October AOUG Officers have organised another special event. As well as the extra special Award Ceremony on Friday 4th October with AOUG Honorary Life Membership presentations, along with the Olga Camm Bursary, and all the traditional Faculty Awards to research students and the Foundation Lecture, the event is extended over to the Saturday with various campus tours and a visit to Bletchley Park Museum on their special "**Are you listening?**" day. This recognises communication through Bletchley Park's history, from the Post Office and pigeon carriers to radio waves and the first televisions, right up to the age of computers and the internet. Then keeping the best until last, we offer our Silver Celebration Anniversary evening meal. For this silver themed dinner in the OU campus VIP restaurant, we ask you all to dress smartly and to wear something in silver – a necklace, a pair of cufflinks or a whole silver outfit - the choice is yours but do come. All members and their friends and family are welcome but there is only room for fifty so confirm your places quickly. Twenty five years for a voluntary Association is certainly an achievement, so make sure you are part of it! A booking form is included with this Local Newsletter so check your diary and book now.

Chairman`s Letter:

On 8th June I attended what may be the last of The Open University Regional Committee Meetings as we know them. Changes are on-going which affect these meetings since the word Yorkshire is being dropped. The Boar Lane building, which we all know as `Open University in Yorkshire Regional Office`, is henceforth to be known as `The Open University Leeds Office`. Under the new system each Region will be responsible for a particular Faculty. Yorkshire will be the centre for Health and Social Welfare. Tutorials, examinations and Degree Ceremonies will still take place in the Region but the main point of contact for each subject will be the particular Student Support Team for that subject wherever it is located.

The AOUG in Yorkshire AGM took place on 15th June and the result of the elections are:- I was re-elected to the position of Chairman, Malcolm White was re-elected to the position of Vice-Chairman, Lesley Sleigh was re-elected to the position of Secretary and we have a new Treasurer as Jean Hertzog was elected to fill that role.

Coal Aston Gala and Well Dressing display took place on 6th July and I was pleased to be around the display of their local church which had been created by our own Well Dressing team of Jean and Ramsey Hertzog, (with help from the other local Coal Aston residents), where I heard many complimentary remarks on the result of their efforts. You may remember that Jean gave AOUG in Yorkshire a talk about Well Dressings at our last Saturday meeting in York and those present had the chance to have a go for themselves at this ancient craft.

At our AOUG in Y Committee meeting on 8th July we took the first steps to begin arranging a programme of social events for 2014. We would be pleased to receive any suggestions for activities which would result in more of our members participating in the social activities and I would remind you that members may bring guests, young or adult to these events.

The next event on my calendar was the Association`s Executive Committee Meeting on 19/20th July. High on the list of topics for discussion was the Silver Celebration event on 4/5th October and we would hope to see a good turnout from the regional membership. Another topic for discussion was how to attract new members to our organisation. The average age of graduates is decreasing and more and more graduates are still in full time employment so any suggestion as to how we may attract the younger graduates would be most welcome – particularly if they were family orientated events.

During this year the Association Executive Committee will be offering Awards to a member from each Region, who has graduated in the last twelve months in the face of adversity, over and above that of the average student and nominations can be received until 13th September. Do you know of anyone who you would like to be considered for the Award from this Region?

Our own Regional Charity, YOUGET, will also be making a similar Award at our Autumn Saturday Meeting, date and venue to be notified, again do you know of anyone who you would like to be considered for this Award.

One of the events we had planned for this year was a handshake event with fellow graduates from the East Midlands was a visit to Bolsover Castle on 19th July, alas due to an Association Executive Committee Meeting some of us were unable to attend, Peter Turvey, who organised the event has kindly submitted this report of how the day went.

At the Association AGM the Yorkshire Region gained two Honorary Life Members, Ramsey Hertzog who received his certificate at the AGM and Ginny Feeney, our walking group organiser, who will receive her presentation at The Silver Celebration in October. This

brings the total number of Honorary Life Members in Yorkshire to three, the original being Brian Fox, out of a total number of ten Honorary Life Members throughout AOUG. It would be pleasing to see a good turnout of the membership of the Region to see Ginny receive her certificate.

Derrick Franks. – AOUG in Y Chairman and Executive Representative for Yorkshire.

Handshake event to Bolsover Castle in the East Midlands.

A fine warm day added to the enjoyment of admiring this castle which dominates the town of Bolsover below. Built on the site of a medieval castle, it was inherited and completed by William Cavendish in 1617- poet, playboy, courtier and Royalist General. His passion for horses is seen in the grand Riding House. Whilst there is no furniture in the rooms there are exquisitely carved fireplaces and rich coloured murals.

Unfortunately illness prevented members from East Midlands attending but they sent apologies. Ramsey Hertzog, Carol-Ann Churm and I walked the interiors and grounds and enjoyed fine views over the Derbyshire countryside from the Tower and battlements. The highlight was the horse menage (dressage) by riders in cavalier dress in the Riding House. We also enjoyed an open air lunch in the castle restaurant.

Peter Turvey

A Week in Weardale

In the middle of June the walking group rented a house in Frosterley, a village in Weardale to the west of Durham. The house slept ten and there was no problem filling it, in fact the overflow were in a B&B nearby.

We were very lucky in the week we chose as unbelievably the weather was warm, dry and sunny most of the time and we saw the valley at its best. The variety of greens was stunning and wild flowers were everywhere in meadows, verges and river banks.

Weardale is a valley of strung out villages with a backdrop of fields and farms leading up onto high moors. In the previous centuries it was populated by farmers and miners, lead extracted from here being exported around the world. Now it retains its beauty, but not its industry and many farm houses are derelict. Many of our walks followed old mining trails and the history of the area is part of its fascination.

Unfortunately for Weardale most tourists head for more well-known attractions such as the Northumberland coast and Hadrian's wall and we saw very few people on our wanderings. Walks varied from 3 miles through fields and riverbanks to 9 miles of hill and dale and a return to Frosterley by bus.

One of the main attractions was the local pub, the source of excellent beers, ciders etc and on three nights provided us with our evening meal – on one occasion including live theatre! It was a holiday really enjoyed by all as comments were of 'when we come next year' – rather than 'if'. Perhaps we'll rent the house next door as well next time and maybe you'd fancy joining us. In the meantime take a look at Weardale, a very well-kept secret!

Ginny Feeney - Walks co-ordinator, ginnyf@talktalk.net

AOUG Foundation for Education Awards for the Regions and Nations

AOUG's own charity is offering one Award in each of the thirteen Regions and Nations plus an extra one for Europe and another for the Rest of the World. These Awards are given to a new graduate who has gained their first OU degree during the last twelve months whilst overcoming adversity of some kind, over and above that of the average student. They cannot apply themselves but nominations can be accepted from students, other graduates or any OU

staff, so maybe you know someone worthy. Information, and an application form, is available on our AOUG website if you would like to nominate someone yourself. Just go to our AOUG website page entitled <http://www.aoug.org.uk/awards/application.html> to read all the details. The application date is now extended until 13th September, so apply now.

Yorkshire Open University Graduates Educational Trust

AOUG in Yorkshire has its own charity that gives an annual Award to a new graduate who has gained their OU degree despite overcoming adversity of some kind whilst they were studying? YOUGET is a separate charity to that run by our Association, and is organised and run by Trustees made up of AOUG in Yorkshire members and this local charity has the added criteria that these graduates must also be going on to do further study with the OU. This might be at honours level, another degree in a different subject area or a diploma or even an OU Masters.

Nomination for the 2013 Awards are now requested so if you know of any new graduate that studied in the Yorkshire area that you think would be worthy of such an Award, please let our new Executive Representative, Derrick Franks, know so that he can send you the full criteria and nomination form. All applications will need to be received by 13th September 2013 and the chosen recipient will be presented with their certificate and Award at the AOUG in Yorkshire Autumn Saturday meeting. YOUGET is always pleased to receive donations towards this local charity and no amount is too small, as every single penny helps to benefit the good work YOUGET does. If you can make a small one off donation, or would like to set up an annual covenant for £5 or £10, please contact the Executive Representative, who will arrange for the relevant details to be forwarded to you.

Jean Hertzog – Trustee and YOUGET Treasurer

AOUG`s 25th Anniversary Trading

In this our 25th Anniversary year, AOUG have had special celebration merchandise produced in silver nickel. You may have seen these items pictured in OMEGA but the photographs are unable to do them justice and they really need to be seen to be appreciated. These special items of a badge, a tie pin, a stick pin and a pair of cuff links can be ordered via the order form in OMEGA, (or those of you who are receiving this Local Newsletter by e-mail have an extra copy as an attachment now) or by phoning the AOUG Office but if you attend the Silver Celebration Weekend in October you will be able to see for yourself just how good they really are. Be sure not to miss out on these elegant souvenirs. When they are gone – they`re gone! So order now and wear your AOUG logo with pride.

Please return this slip to:

Lesley Sleigh AOUG in Yorkshire Secretary 6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot. HX2 6AJ

My current e-mail address is

My home phone is My mobile is

I am interested in events near or talks on

Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT
Sat 10 th August 7.30pm	Open air performance of 'The Mikado' by Gilbert and Sullivan at Nostell Priory. Purchase tickets direct at £18.50 each. Please advise the Executive Representative of your attendance and look out for AOUG Backpacks on arrival..
Sat. 17 th August 11am	Visit to Sewerby Hall, Church Lane, YO15 1EA two miles North of Bridlington. Meet at the Ticket Office.
Sat. 7 th September 11am	25 th Anniversary event – Celebration Castle and Canal trip at Skipton – Book cream tea canal tickets through Jean Hertzog jrhertzog@hotmail.com 01246 414746.
Frid 4 th and Sat 5 th October	Association Silver Celebration Weekend at Milton Keynes Use attached form. or book via the AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk 01908653316
Sat. 12 th October 11am	“History of the Player Piano”- Lesley Sleigh`s home. On bus route, just two miles from Hebden Bridge railway station. Opportunity to have a go! Ring 01422 883337 for directions and to book lunch.
Mon. 28 th – Wed. 30 th October	Mini Cruise to Amsterdam –Booking details from Jean Hertzog jrhertzog@hotmail.com
Sat November	Saturday meeting at Leeds OU Regional Office. Details next Newsletter
Sat. 7 th December 2pm	Rock and Roll Panto of “Jack and the Beanstalk” 2pm at Leeds City Varieties. Buy your own tickets in advance.
Walking Dates Sun. 15 th September 26 th October	Six Dales Way – contact Ginny re arrangements. T-Shop walk in Calder Valley – a short walk for newcomers.

Contact Details

Exec. Rep. & Yorkshire Chairman	Derrick Franks	74, West Park, Great North Road, Darrington, Pontefract. WF8 3HY	01977 620192 derrick@franks1356.freeserve.co.uk
Secretary	Lesley Sleigh	6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot, West Yorkshire. HX2 6AJ	01422 883337 lesleigh@live.co.uk
Walking Group	Ginny Feeny	8 Sandy Gate Hebden Bridge. HX7 8HZ	01422 847008 ginnyf@talktalk.net

Please return to the Secretary, Lesley Sleigh. 6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot. HX2 6AJ

I / We would like to make a one off donation to YOUGET of (Cheque enclosed)

I/We would like to set up an annual covenant for the YOUGET charity of

I would like to know more about the Skipton Canal trip

I would like to know more about the Amsterdam Mini Cruise

I would like to learn more about nominating a new graduate for an Award

**Did you receive this Newsletter by post? If so, do you have an e-mail address we may use?
Or maybe you would be prepared to donate some stamps to assist with postage costs?**

